

AUTHORIZING CITIES AND TOWNS IN THE INDIAN TERRITORY TO SECURE LANDS, ETC.

MAY 9, 1898.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union and ordered to be printed.

Mr. CURTIS, of Kansas, from the Committee on Indian Affairs, submitted the following

REPORT.

[To accompany S. 3720.]

The Committee on Indian Affairs, to whom was referred the bill (S. 3720) entitled "A bill authorizing cities and towns in the Indian Territory to secure, by condemnation or otherwise, lands necessary for public improvements," beg leave to submit the following report, and recommend that said bill do pass without amendment:

The reasons for the passage of this bill are fully set out in the Senate Report No. 696, which is hereto attached and made a part of this report.

The Committee on Indian Affairs, to whom was referred the bill (S. 3720) authorizing cities and towns in the Indian Territory to secure, by condemnation or otherwise, lands necessary for public improvements, having had the same under consideration, report it back with a recommendation that it pass.

The legislation sought will enable the people of cities and towns in the Indian Territory to construct systems of waterworks for their respective communities. It provides that sufficient land may be condemned for the occupancy of water mains, pumping stations, sewers, etc., in all an inconsiderable quantity.

Within the region affected by this measure lack of wholesome water is a serious obstacle to material progress. Wells are impracticable because of the great depth of the underlying water stratum and the deleterious quality of the water when obtained. Under existing conditions the inhabitants depend largely upon stored supplies of rain water, accumulated in cisterns and tanks.

They ask, under the provisions of the bill reported by your committee, authority to connect their communities with adjacent streams, from which they will be enabled to draw abundant supplies of pure water and construct sewers through which they may rid themselves of unsanitary accumulations.

The measure is proposed in the interest of the health and comfort of the people of the Indian Territory towns and cities, and it is the opinion of your committee that it should become a law.